

Who Won the 1975 U.S. Open?

Jaren Wenzel

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville

Teacher: Michael Voss

Who won the 1975 U.S. Open? This article will tell about who won the U.S. Open in 1975 and will tell about six Illinois players who played in it. Five of the Illinois players were from the Chicago area, and one was from Belleville. This article will also tell some information about the community near Medinah, Illinois, where the event was held. This U.S. Open was known as the match that could not be won, because it went into a fourth day playoff.

In 1975, the U.S. Open was held in Medinah, Illinois. Bob Augustine, Drue Johnson, Dean Lind, Lance Ten Broeck, and Bob Zender were the five Chicago area golfers to qualify for the U.S. Open held in June, 1975. Jay Haas was the player from Belleville. The first round scores of those players were Ten Broeck, 71; Zender, 72; Haas, 74; Johnson, 79; Augustine, 81; and Lind, 82. These six golfers were some of the best golfers in Illinois. In the end, Haas and Ten Broeck were the only two Illinois golfers left in the 1975 U.S. Open.

The two day scores after the second round were Haas, 143; Ten Broeck, 145; Johnson, 152; Zender, 154; Augustine, 157; and Lind, 159. Of these six Illinois players, only Haas and Broeck made the cut to go to the third round. The final round scores for them were Haas, 215 and Broeck, 224. The end of 1975 U.S. Open came when LOLI Graham won in a playoff round.

Lance Ten Broeck started his career in the PGA Tour as an amateur. He played during the years from 1975 to 1992. Dean Lind was a professional player on the PGA Tour, but he was cut after the second round of the 1975 U.S. Open with a two-day score of 159. Jay Haas is still playing professional golf, but he was an amateur in 1975. He played from 1974-2002 on the PGA tour. He was only 21 years of age when he went to the 1975 U.S. Open.

Near Medinah in the 1920's, there was a group of local Shriners who wanted a country retreat. They bought land from the Lawrence and Rosenwinkel families to build the Medinah Country Club. This country club has 54 holes on three golf courses. The course that they played the U.S. Open on in 1975 was Medinah Country Club Number Three. The Number Three golf course was originally designed for the women of the Medinah Country Club.

The architect who designed this course was Tom Bendelow. Schmidt Brothers was the construction crew. The man who painted the murals and the rotunda was Gustav A. Brand, a German artist. The clubhouse was designed using many styles from Oriental, Byzantine, Louis XIV, and Italian architecture. During the Great Depression, the Medinah Country Club members suffered great financial hardships. As a result, the club lost many members during that time.

The last time that the U.S. Open was held in Medinah was in 1990. One other time that that the U.S. Open was held there was in 1949. The Number Three course is still open today. [From Medinah Country Club, "Club History," http://medinahcc.org/frames/middle/club_history/club_history.html (Nov. 12, 2003); U.S. golf Association, Golfstats: U.S. Open Jay Hass in the U.S. Open, www.golfstats.usopen.com/cgi.pan?usopen (Oct. 27, 2003); *Chicago Tribune*, June 4, 20, 21, 22 and 23, 1975.]